

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 275  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Richard David Smyser.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Richard David Smyser, renowned founding editor of *The Oak Ridger*; and

WHEREAS, Dick Smyser was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, *The Oak Ridger*, the first successful privately-owned newspaper in Oak Ridge, published its first edition on January 20, 1949; and

WHEREAS, associated with the military's Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge was converted into a civilian community by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission; and

WHEREAS, *The Oak Ridger* played a vital role in Oak Ridge's transition from a federally-owned-and-operated community to a home-owning and self-governing civilian community of 30,000 people; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II, Dick Smyser was appointed managing editor of the newly established newspaper; and

WHEREAS, *The Oak Ridger* has won over thirty Tennessee Press Association Public Service Awards, and many of these awards were for coverage of this unique civic metamorphosis; and

WHEREAS, evincing great devotion to editors' organizations, Dick Smyser served as President of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association and President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE); and

WHEREAS, serving a community composed of many scientists and engineers, Mr. Smyser was a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, visiting and lecturing at more than thirty colleges and universities, Richard Smyser has served as the Kilgore Counselor at DePauw University, the Atwood Professor at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, and the Meeman Professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; he was also a visiting professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Pennsylvania State University at University Park; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1975, Mr. Smyser was a member of ASNE's delegation to the People's Republic of China, as part of one of the first groups of journalists to be allowed to tour the Chinese mainland after the Communist revolution; and

WHEREAS, Dick Smyser served nine years as a judge for the Associated Press Managing Editors Association Public Service Award, four years as a Pulitzer Prize juror, and three years as a member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors Writing Awards Board; and

WHEREAS, Dick Smyser authored *Oak Ridge 1942-1992: A Commemorative Portrait* which was published as part of Oak Ridge's fiftieth anniversary celebration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smyser received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Penn State in 1985 and the Vocational Service Award from the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smyser was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he was married for more than fifty years to his wife, Mary, who passed away in January 2001; and

WHEREAS, Dick Smyser is survived by his sister, Alice Raphael, daughters and sons-in-law, Lucy Smyser and Ira Tashman and Katy Smyser and V.J. McAleer; and grandchildren, Michael, Paul, and Nathan Tashman and Ally, Quinn, Mariel, and Shea McAleer; and

WHEREAS, Dick Smyser leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Richard David Smyser, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smyser.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.